

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-92. (cancelled)

93. (currently amended) A control system for a printing or copying system, comprising:

a first printer and a second printer;

at least one operating unit for input and output of operating information of the printing or copying system and which is connected via an external network connection with said first printer in which is provided a first control unit that

controls the first printer, and

comprises a control panel server internal to said first printer which the at least one operating unit accesses as a client to output control data from the first printer containing internal control variables of said first printer not otherwise accessible by the operating unit;

graphical elements of a graphical user interface stored in a memory of the first printer, said graphical elements being transferred into the at least one operating unit and loaded there for display;

the first printer comprising an internal network;

the control panel server being connected via said internal network with a network agent via which a data exchange takes place with a plurality of sub-controllers of said first printer;

at least one second control unit in the second printer which controls a plurality of sub-controllers of said second printer;

a data line via which the first and second control units are connected with one another and via which the control data is transferred from said first control unit to said second control unit with aid of a data transfer protocol;

the at least one operating unit outputting the control data in addition to the operating information, the control data also being useful to set system parameters of the second printer;

the first and the second control units containing a distributed object model with objects aiding access to the operating information and to the control data; and

~~said control data containing control variables, wherein values of the internal control variables are being output from the first printer~~ with aid of the at least one operating unit, the values being administered with aid of a management information base; and

~~a Remote Method Invocation Communication using a Simple Network Management Protocol aiding transfer of the control data.~~

94. (previously presented) The control system of claim 93 wherein the second control unit is provided in a second apparatus to control it;

the control panel server is connected with a master system parameter manager provided in the first apparatus;

the control panel server implements a synchronization of settings between image acquisition apparatus of the first apparatus and a corresponding slave system parameter manager of the second apparatus; and

given an input of a first value of a first parameter in the first printer, by said control data a second value of a same parameter of the second apparatus is automatically modified depending on a value of the first parameter.

95. (previously presented) The control system according to claim 94 wherein the first value and the second value are coupled with one another such that, given a change of one of the first and the second values in a coupled state, the respective other value is modified by a same amount.

96. (previously presented) The control system according to claim 93 wherein a web server is provided that has access to the memory, and stored data for graphical elements are designed for display of a web site.

97. (previously presented) The control system according to claim 96 wherein data for the graphical elements of a user interface are generated with aid of a Java programming language or Hypertext Markup Language and are transferred from the control panel server to the at least one operating unit by means of Remote Method Invocation.

98. (previously presented) The control system according to claim 93 wherein the at least one operating unit has at least one object for input or output of the operating information and the control data, wherein data transfer between the at least one operating unit and the first control unit occurs with aid of the at least one object.

99. (previously presented) The control system according to claim 98 wherein a standardized model for abstract description of distributed objects occurs according to a Common Object Request Broker Architecture.

100. (previously presented) The control system according to claim 93 wherein:

information of the control data are stored in a central database of the printing or copying system, wherein the information comprises at least a hierarchical classification of existing structure of control units and function units; and

in which the first control unit of the printing or copying system has access to the control data with aid of said information.

101. (previously presented) The control system according to claim 93 wherein a distributed object model using a network protocol is provided for transfer

of the control data and the operating information between the first and the second control units, and at least one further control unit or a database.

102. (previously presented) The control system according to claim 95 wherein an automatic modification of the first value or the second value of a same parameter is activated and deactivated.

103. (currently amended) A method for input and output of operating information and control data of a printing or copying system, comprising the steps of:

providing a first printer and a second printer, and providing the first printer with an internal network;

providing at least one operating unit for input and output of operating information of the printing or copying system and which is connected via an external network connection with said first printer in which is provided a first control unit that

controls the first printer, and

comprises a control panel server which the at least one operating unit accesses as a client to output control data from the first printer containing internal control variables of said first printer not otherwise accessible by the operating unit, the control panel server connected via said internal network with a network agent via which a data exchange takes place with a plurality of sub-controllers of said first printer;

storing graphical elements of a graphical user interface in a memory of the first printer, said graphical elements being transferred into the at least one operating unit and loaded there for display;

providing at least one second control unit in the second printer which controls a plurality of sub-controllers of said second printer, a data line also being provided via which the first and the second control units are connected with one another and

via which the control data is transferred from said first to said second control units with aid of a data transfer protocol;

outputting the control data by the at least one operating unit in addition to the operating information, and using the control data to set system parameters of the second printer; and

accessing of the operating information and the control data taking place with aid of a distributed object model objects of which are contained in the first and the second control units, ~~said control data containing control variables,~~ wherein values of the internal control variables contained in the control data are being output from the first printer with aid of the at least one operating unit, and administering the values with aid of a management information base; ~~and~~

~~aiding said transfer of the control data with a Remote Method Invocation Communication using a Simple Network Management Protocol.~~